--- 1/4th Pound - "Series of 1883" - BLACK - 290/293 x 20 mm. ---

John McKay records that 1/4th pound black *lithographed* '83 strips were prepared under the 4th and 5th BABN Contracts. The collection does not contain a *lithographed* 1/4th pound, black, "Series of 1883" strip - but I was not looking for one when the collection was being formed.

By 1887 BABN had been forced to reopen their facility in Ottawa, and the "Montreal" imprint was removed from the master die, and from the printing plates. Lee Brandom *does not* list a 1/4th pound black "Ottawa" imprint strip.

John McKay records that 400,000 copies of "1/4 Black, '83 Tobacco", *recess printed* by hand press, were 'delivered' under the **3rd BABN Contract** (1878-1886). On the next line McKay records that 1,677,503 *lithographed* copies of "1/4 Black Tobacco" were also 'delivered'. Undoubtedly these latter strips are the '1/4th pound Black Ribbon' TOBACCO strips from 1880-81."

John McKay also records that 814,020 copies of the "1/4 lb. Black, Tobacco", *recess printed* by hand press, and 888,240 *lithographed* copies were 'delivered' under the **4th BABN Contract** (1886-1892). The *lithographed* strips are probably from the "Series of 1880-81", and were sent for destruction in 1887.

John McKay further records that 322,200 copies (*recess printed* by hand press), and 220,891 copies (*recess printed* by rotary press), plus 35,069 *lithographed* copies of "1/4 Black, Tobacco" were 'delivered' under the **5th BABN Contract** (1892-1897). It is stretching the point to again maintain that these *lithographed* strips were "Series of 1880-81" so perhaps the earlier listing was for *lithographed* "Series of 1883" strips.

Finally John McKay records that 141,742 copies (*recess printed* by rotary press) of "1/4 Black, Tobacco" were 'delivered' under the **5th BABN Supplement** (1897-1898). These were actually printed under the **5th BABN Contract** but remained in stock when BABN lost the printing contract to ABN in 1897. By mutual agreement, they were provided to the Department as ABN worked 'up-to-speed' with the die preparation and the printing of the "Series of 1897".

3rd BABN Contract - October 22nd 1878	400,000 recess (hand)	**000001** to **400000**
4th BABN Contract - October 22nd 1886	814,020 recess (hand)	**400001** to 1-**214020**
	888,240 *lithographed*	1-**214021** to 2-**102260**
5th BABN Contract - April 23rd 1892	322,200 recess (hand)	2-**102261** to 2-**424460**
	220,891 recess (rotary)	2-**424461** to 2-**645351**
	35,069 *lithographed*	2-**645352** to 2-**680420**
5th BABN Supplement - (1897-1898)	141,742 recess (rotary)	2-**680421** to 2-**822162**
	2,822,162	

Probably the strips printed by *lithography*, and those recess printed by *hand press*, will measure around 285 mm. in design length, while those recess printed by *rotary press* will measure about 290 mm. in length.

I am sure that the 1/4th pound strips were not control-numbered exactly as outlined above. The *recess printed* batches, from the hand press and the rotary press, were undoubtedly mixed with *lithographed* batches, and the control-number sequence will be a blend around these 'Delivered' numbers as indicated by John McKay.

The catalogue lists the *recess printed* Series of 1883 black 1/4th pound TOBACCO strip as follows:

RP-562 - 1/4th pound, black, perforated 12, on horizontal mesh wove, "Montreal" imprint - 293 x 20 mm.
RP-562a - 1/4th pound, black, perforated 12, on vertical mesh wove, "Montreal" imprint - 290 x 20 mm.

RP-563 - 1/4th pound, black, *coarse roulette*, on horizontal mesh wove, "Montreal" imprint - 293 x 20 mm.

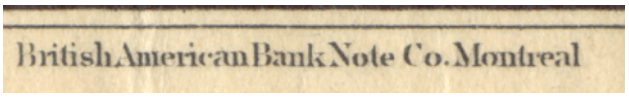
RP-564 - 1/4th pound, black, *coarse roulette*, on horizontal mesh wove, ***without an imprint*** - 293 x 20 mm.

John McKay records the preparation of 923,309 *lithographed* strips (probably **RP-561L**) which are *unlisted* - but are noted as possible in the catalogue. I have not found any examples, but when the collection was being assembled, I was unaware of their existence.

--- 1/4th Pound - “Series of 1883” - BLACK - 290 x 20 mm - 3rd BABN Contract (1878-1886) ---

--- Recess printed by *hand press* on vertical mesh wove - with 4 mm. blue control numbers ---

--- RP-562a - perforated 12 - with the “Montreal” imprint - scanned at 55% scale ---



--- The “Montreal” imprint - scanned at 300% scale ---

The collection ***does not contain*** a copy of the 290 mm. perforated 1/4th pound black strip (with the “Montreal” strip imprint) printed on *vertical mesh* wove without the **CANCELLED** stamping as illustrated below. **WANTED!**

RP-562a - 1/4th pound, perf 12, with 4 mm. control 2-**520022**, on vertical mesh wove - stamped **CANCELLED** in 3 mm. Gothic

520005★	RP-562a CP	1/4th pound, perf 12, on vertical mesh wove - stamped **CANCELLED** in 3 mm. Gothic
520022	RP-562a CP	1/4th pound, perf 12, on vertical mesh wove - stamped **CANCELLED** in 3 mm. Gothic
849857	RP-562a	1/4th pound, perf 12, on vertical mesh wove - rollered **TOBACCO / 3 - 8**, by “John Lemesurier”, Quebec City

RP-562an - 1/4th pound, perforated 12, *without* control numbering,
recess printed by hand press on vertical mesh wove - 287 mm. design and the 26 mm. “Montreal” imprint

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--- 1/4th Pound - “Series of 1883” - BLACK - 293 x 20 mm - 5th BABN Contract (1892-1897) ---

--- Recess printed by rotary press on horizontal mesh wove - with 4 mm. blue controls ---

--- RP-562 - perforated 12 - with the 26 mm “Montreal” imprint - scanned at 55% scale ---

RP-562 - 1/4th pound, perf 12, with 4 mm control 2-**134435**, on horizontal mesh wove

1-**134435**★	RP-562	1/4th pound, perf 12, on horizontal mesh wove - with a “Montreal” imprint

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--- 1/4th Pound - “Series of 1883” - BLACK - 293 x 20 mm - 5th BABN Contract (1892-1897) ---

--- Recess printed by rotary press on horizontal mesh wove - with 4 mm. blue controls ---

--- RP-563 - *coarse roulette* - with the 26 mm “Montreal” imprint - scanned at 55% scale ---

RP-563 - 1/4th pound, coarse roulette, with 4 mm. control 2-**355317**, on horizontal mesh wove, roller cancelled **TOBACCO / 6-17** in violet by “D. Ritchie Tobacco”, Montreal

1-**355317**★	RP-563	1/4th pound, coarse roulette, on horizontal mesh wove - coded **TOBACCO / 6-17**

--- 1/4th Pound - “Series of 1883” - BLACK - 293 x 20 mm - 5th BABN Contract (1892-1897) ---

--- Recess printed by rotary press on horizontal mesh wove - with 4 mm. blue controls ---

--- RP-564 - *coarse roulette* - *without an imprint* - scanned at 55% scale ---

RP-564 - 1/4th pound, coarse roulette, with 4 mm. control 2-**124253**, on horizontal mesh wove, ***Without an imprint***, roller cancelled **TOBACCO / 2-17** in violet ink by “Ephrem Arcouet Tobacco”, Montreal

2-**124253**★	RP-564	1/4th pound, coarse roulette, on horizontal mesh wove - *without an imprint*

Judging by the lithographed “Series of 1880” strips, the *vertical mesh* wove was used initially and, in spite of the Lee Brandom numbering, the *horizontal* mesh paper came later. The control numbers have been reset twice upon reaching **999999**, to re-start at **000001**.

Once again the horizontal mesh strips are longer than the *vertical mesh* strips. I feel that the horizontal mesh strips stretch longitudinally during printing, or from bending the plate for rotary printing.

File path is [c:\ CR - STAMPS \ RP_STAMPS \ 1883 \ Black \ 1-4 pound - 290 mm],
In MS Word 2007 for Windows 7,
Formatted for a HP CP 1525 Laser Jet,
September 23rd 2013 - JBH